

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the figures 2, 3, 4A-4C, and 5 with the enclosed replacement sheets.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the referenced application and indicating that claims 8-32, 34, 38-62, and 64 include allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-70 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also, by way of this reply, claim 71 has been added. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 35, and 66 are independent. The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claims.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 29, 33-36, 39, 41, 42, 47, 50, 51, 53, 54, 59, and 64-69 have been amended. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended, in part, to include allowable subject matter of claim 8. Further, independent claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of original claim 35 and original dependent claims 2 and 5. Independent claims 35 and 66 have also been amended to include allowable subject matter of claim 38. Dependent claims have been amended to correct typographical errors and to address antecedent basis issues arising from the amendments to the independent claims 1, 35, and 66. With respect to new claim 71, new claim 71 includes a portion of the subject matter from original dependent claim 2. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Drawings

By way of this reply, Figures 2, 3, 4A-4C and 5 have been amended to comply with formal requirements. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicants submit that the replacement figures are now formal and respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge the same.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 34 and 65 for including informalities. By way of this reply, informalities in claims 34 and 65 have now been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 23, 35, 53, and 66-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, claims 2, 35, 66 have been rejected under § 112, second paragraph for lacking antecedent basis for the first occurrence of "the fault" as opposed to "a fault" in the claim.

By way of this reply, claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled claim 2. Regarding claim 35, Applicants believe that the Examiner's assertion that the term "the fault" lacks antecedence is incorrect. Specifically, the term "a fault" first appears in the preamble of claim 35 and, accordingly, provides sufficient antecedent basis for all additional occurrences of "the fault" in claim 35 and all claims depending therefrom.

With respect to claim 66, claim 66 has been amended, in part, to correct the first occurrence of “the fault” to read “a fault.” Claim 66 has further been amended to clarify “the error handler is implemented on at least two of the plurality of nodes,” “the fault manager is implemented on at least two of the plurality of nodes,” and “the fault management architecture agent is implemented on at least two of the plurality of nodes” in accordance with the Examiner’s request (*See Office Action* page 3). Thus, the rejection is now moot with respect to claims 2, 35, and 66. Further, this rejection is now moot with respect to dependent claims 69-70, which depend from amended independent claim 66. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 2, 35, 66, and 69-70 is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 23, 53, 67, and 68 have been corrected as per the Examiner’s suggestion. Specifically, claims 23 and 53 have been amended to clarify the references to change “error event” to “fault event.” Thus, the ambiguity noted by the Examiner has been removed from claims 23 and 53.

Dependent claim 67 has been amended to clarify that error detection and generation of error event occur on *two separate nodes*. Claim 68 has been amended for a similar clarification. Thus, the antecedent basis issue raised by the Examiner with respect to claims 67 and 68 is now moot.

In view of the above, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 23, 53, 67, and 68. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejection with respect to claims 23, 53, 67, and 68 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that claims 1-4 and 6-34 “describe the manipulation of data, but no practical application thereof” (*see* Office Action, page 3). By way of this reply, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the following steps*:

diagnosing the error using the error event to generate the fault;
generating a fault event using the fault;
forwarding the fault event to a fault management architecture agent;
and
initiating, by the fault management architecture agent, an action in
accordance with the fault event

Thus, independent claim 1, as amended, now satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 4, 6, and 9-34 depend from amended independent claim 1 and, thus, satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101 for at least the same reasons as amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 33, 35-37, 63, 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,898,737 (hereinafter referred to as “Goeller”). To the extent this rejection applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of this reply, claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection is now moot with respect to these claims. Additionally, by way of

* Applicants note that the claim limitations added to claim 1 track the language of original claim 35, which the Examiner has indicated includes a “real-world” result (*see* Office Action mailed September 12, 2006, p. 3-4).

this reply, independent claims 1 and 35 have been amended, in part, to incorporate allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 38. Specifically, claim 1, has been amended to include the limitations set forth in allowable dependent claim 8 and claim 35 has been amended to include limitations set forth in allowable dependent claim 38. Therefore, amended independent claims, are patentable over Goeller. Further, pending dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

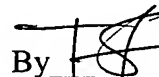
As discussed above, claim 71 has been added by this reply. Claim 71 depends from allowable independent claim 1. Thus, claim 71 is allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as allowable independent claim 1. Accordingly, a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowability for claim 71 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number: 03226/335001; SUN040224).

Dated: December 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment (Replacement Sheets of Figures 2, 3, 4A-4C and 5).